

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

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O 181725Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5282

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI SHUM UN US

SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKE IN UN ECLA HEADQUARTERS

REF: SANTIAGO 5025

1. I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ECLA CHIEF IGLESIAS SEVERAL TIMES. IGLESIAS WAS CALLED BY ACTING FONMIN VALDES SHORTLY AFTER MY TALK WITH PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF COVARRUBIAS (REFTEL). CLEARLY, THE WORD HAS BEEN PASSED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO GET TO WORK ON THE PROBLEM. IGLESIAS WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE.

2. IGLESIAS TABLED WITH THE ACTING FONMIN A PACKAGE OF THREE BASIC ELEMENTS: THE GOC WOULD AGREE TO INVESTIGATE A SPECIFIC LIST OF NAMES PROVIDED BY THE HUNGER STRIKERS (THE LIST WOULD INCLUDE RELATIVES OF THOSE INSIDE ECLA BUT NOT MORE GENERAL LISTS OF HUNDREDS OF ALLEGED "DISAPPEARED"); THE GOC WOULD ACCEPT A VISIT BY A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNSYG (IGLESIAS MENTIONED THE LEGAL ADVISER) WHO WOULD TRANSMIT THE GOC ASSURANCES TO INVESTIGATE TO THE STRIKERS; AND THE STRIKERS WOULD GO HOME. THE GOVERNMENT IS PONDERING THIS PROPOSAL NOW.

3. IGLESIAS IS THINKING OF TELLING THE STRIKERS HE WILL
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FACILITATE THEIR EXIT FROM CHILE (A PROPOSAL HE EXPECTS THEM TO REJECT). HE WOULD THEN TRANSMIT TO THEM THE ASSURANCES OF THE GOC RE THEIR SAFETY (ASSUMING THE GOC EXTENDS SUCH ASSURANCES). TO REASSURE BOTH STRIKERS AND THE GOC AND TO DISENGAGE ECLA, IGLESIAS WOULD LIKE THE INVOLVE GOVERNMENTS (E.G., THE NORDIC EMBASSIES) IN ANY GUARANTEES, BY "ASSIGNING" A HANDFUL OF STRIKERS TO A SPECIFIC DIPLOMATIC MISSION. HE IS WELL AWARE THAT

A STRIKER COULD GO UNDERGROUND PERMITTING THE COMMUNISTS TO CLAIM THAT THE GOC WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANOTHER DISAPPEARANCE AND WOULD JUST AS SOON SPREAD RESPONSIBILITY BEYOND ECLA.

4. COMMENT: IGLESIAS IS TRYING TO ENGAGE ME AS AN ADVOCATE FOR HIS PROPOSALS WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOC. HOWEVER, HE IS STILL IN HIS IDEA ERRUPTING STAGE AND COOL GOC/USG RELATIONS LIMIT OUR LOCAL ACCESS AND INFLUENCE. WE ARE CONCENTRATING ON THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM. ACCORDINGLY, I RECOMMEND I NOT ENTER THE FRAY HERE ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS UNTIL THE OUTLINES OF AN ACCEPTABLE DEAL HAVE EMERGED. THEN OUR LEVERAGE MIGHT BE DECISIVE. MEANWHILE, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR WATCHING BRIEF.
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